Production of Vegetables in Himachal Pradesh

*379. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of shortage of vegetables in Himachal Pradesh and its high cost, whether Government propose to modernise the methods of production of vegetable with lesser cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to bring such production activities under Agro-Industries to take up production in large scale in Himachal Pradesh;;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is nb'shortage of vegetables reported in Himachal Pradesh. No unusual rise except seasonal fluctuations in prices of vegetables during winter has been reported. For modernisation of production, aiming at Higher cost benefit ratio, research is being conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural research and State Agricultural Universities.

(c) to (e) Production of vegetables is being promoted under Integrated Projects being financially supported by National Horiticul-ture Board, Department of Food Processing Industries and National Cooperative Development Corporation under which assistance is being provided for production, post harvest as well as processing.

Sister States Relationship Between Andhra Pradesh and New Jersey

*380. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action taken to issue clearance for Sister States relationship between Andhra Pradesh and' New Jersey in economic, cultural and tourism development?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Andhra Pradesh .Government had proposed entering into a

sister-state relationship with the US State of New Jersey in the areas of economic development, scientific research, tourism, culture etc. From the past experience with such proposals and looking at the areas of interest, it was suggested to the Andhra Pradesh Government to enter into an economic relationship with New Jersey with the participation of chambers of commerce etc. A modified proposal is awaited.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Land Under Fruit, Fodder and Fuel. Plantation in Orissa

2299. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land in Orissa brought under plantation of fruit, fodder and feul;

(b) whether Government propose to bring additional hectare of land under fruit, fodder and feul plantation;

(c) whether the above programme was proposed under compact area plantation programme; and

(d) if so, the step taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) During the VHIPlan and first two years of the IXPlan ending 1998-99, an area of 1.74 lakh hectares have been brought under fruit tree plantation in Orissa through horticultural development programmes funded by the Central and State Government. Under the 50% Centrally sponsored area Oriented Fuel wood and Fodder Project scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, fodder and fuel wood plantation has been raised in an area of 32,469 hectares of degrated forest land during the same period. Under this scheme it is proposed to afforest 16,665 hectares of degraded forests during the IXPlan. An area of 30000 hectares are proposed to be brought under fruit plants during 1999-2000.